

**DRAFT – to be reviewed by the Task Force**

LET'S GET WASHINGTON COVERED: Restructuring Health Insurance Task Force  
October 15-16, 2003 retreat  
The Resort at Port Ludlow, Port Ludlow, Washington

IN ATTENDANCE: Commissioner Mike Kreidler

Representing Consumers: Adair Dammann, Washington State Council, Service Employees International Union; Barbara Flye, Washington Citizen Action Council; Sean Corry, Sprague, Israel, Giles, Inc.; Ed Singler, Washington AARP

Representing Insurers: Yori Milo, Premera Blue Cross; Nancy Ellison, Regence Blue Shield; Pam MacEwan, Group Health Cooperative

Representing Providers: Rhonda Hauff, Yakima Neighborhood Health Services; Paul Tucker, Highline Community Hospital; Tom Jones, Community Choice Healthcare Network; Thomas Curry, Washington Medical Association; Lori Bielinski, Complementary and Alternative Medicine

Representing Purchasers: Laura Boyd, Health Care Purchasers and Association of Washington Business; Pete Cutler, Health Care Authority; Cynthia Voortman, Washington Association of Health Underwriters; Gary Smith, Independent Business Association;

OIC: Michael Arnis, Lucille Christenson, Bill Daley, Ann Eddy, George Xu

ABSENT: Carolyn Logue, National Federation of Independent Business

Commissioner Kreidler welcomed the task force members and outlined the process and goal for the two-day retreat. He encouraged the members of the task force to consider options that can make a substantive improvement to our state's health insurance system.

Reports were given from the three steering committee projects.

James Matthisen, Mercer Human Resource Consulting, presented information on uncompensated care, the uninsured, sources of financing and cost shifting among market segments. James presented his findings on a spreadsheet which can be found among the documents on the webpage under the section on the retreat. James emphasized that actuaries are just beginning to analyze the cost impacts of uncompensated care and they have much to learn. However, he believes the results can give policy-makers a sense of the magnitude of the issue.

Michael Arnis presented information on market fragmentation. Suggestions were made that the Task Force look at the history of the fragmentation and the fragmentation risk factors, especially for the current pools.

Michael Arnis lead the discussion regarding mandates and administrative costs. A spreadsheet with mandates from ten other states was shared. Carriers indicated a reluctance to bring mandate and administrative costs directly to the table, but suggested having a neutral party develop a structure and collect the data.

As the Task Force prepared to break into pre-assigned teams, Commissioner Kreidler asked members to set aside their differences and look at things we could do to improve our health insurance system. He requested that they think creatively and suggest ideas that can bring substantive improvements for enrollees and those uninsured.

Potential solutions had been categorized and given to task force members to review prior to the retreat. These potential options were discussed before the break-out sessions, with creative thinking encouraged. The task force added more potential solutions during this discussion.

The teams below broke into mixed groups and began working toward generating suggestions by reaching consensus on their high-level ideas. They were also asked to rate their ideas for cost to implement, positive impact, increased accessibility, increased affordability, sustainability and how politically doable they were. The rating was 1 to 5, with 5 being most favorable.

Team #1:

Commissioner Kreidler  
Purchaser - Laura Boyd  
Provider - Tom Curry  
Carrier - Pam MacEwan  
Consumer - Ed Singler

Team #2:

Provider/consumer - Lori Bielinski  
Consumer - Adair Dammann  
Purchaser - Gary Smith  
Carrier - Nancy Ellison

Team #3

Consumer - Barbara Flye  
Carrier - Yori Milo  
Provider - Paul Tucker  
Purchaser - Cynthia Voortman

Team #4:

Provider/Consumer - Rhonda Hauff  
Consumer - Sean Corry  
Purchaser - Pete Cutler  
Purchaser - Tom Jones

The Task Force broke for dinner, returning to their team discussions in the morning.

When the Task Force reconvened as a single group, Tom Curry, Gary Smith, Yori Milo and Sean Corry presented their team's suggestions. Questions and discussion followed each report. Some options in common were reinsurance, an economy plan, tax incentives, blending funds and opening the Basic Health Plan, promoting better utilization management, using more SCHIP and CMS dollars, and combining pools.

Task force members expressed concern that there were other good ideas they hadn't had time to discuss, but didn't necessarily want eliminated. Michael Arnis pointed out that the common suggestions were broad and might not eliminate including other ideas as the policies of each idea are fleshed-out.

Commissioner Kreidler thanked the group for all of their hard work and time invested. He said we will consolidate the options discussed during the retreat and get a summary back to the task force, stating that the ideas we have now allow us to go to the next step.

Respectfully submitted, Ann Eddy.